

II.—Description of a new Species of *Clausilia* from the neighbourhood of Cheltenham. By A. SCHMIDT.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

23 Chesham Place, Dec. 12, 1855.

THE following translation of a notice which I have just received in Latin from the well-known German malacologist, Dr. Schmidt of Aschersleben, the collaborateur of Pfeiffer, Rossmässler, and Menke, will, I think, not be unacceptable to the readers of your Journal. At all events, it may direct the attention of British conchologists to an interesting subject of inquiry, and enable us to decide whether the species in question is henceforth to be considered as British or not.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. J. HAMILTON.

Amongst the shells which I have received from the neighbourhood of the town of Cheltenham, I have found *Clausilia Mortilleti*, Dumont. As this shell was published by the author only about two years ago (*Bulletin de la Société d'Histoire Naturelle de Savoie*, 1853, p. 78, according to Charpentier), I do not know whether it has yet been noticed by English malacologists. The author's specimens, found in the district of Valenciennes (Quénoy near Valenciennes, Département du Nord), at Lyons, at Löwenburg near Bonn, at Schieder near Pymont, and at Wölfelsfall in Silesia, have been forwarded to me, as well as the unique specimen from Cheltenham. It is not therefore probable that this species is on the whole confined to a narrow district, or that it should live in the single locality alone which we have mentioned in England. In order that we may as soon as possible know more about its distribution, I offer the following description of it to the notice of English naturalists.

Clausilia Mortilleti, Dumont.

T. subrimata, ventroso-fusififormis, confertim costulato-striata, corneo-fusca, sericea; anfr. 10–11, convexiusculi, ultimus basi distincte carinatus; apertura rhomboideo-pyriiformis; lamella infera profunda, sæpe antice ramosa, supera producta cum spirali juncta; lunella arcuata; plica palatalis 1 supera, subcolumellaris vix emersa; spatium interlamellare plerumque plicatulum; peristoma continuum, breviter solutum.

Long. 14, diam. 4 millim. Apert. $3\frac{1}{2}$ long., $2\frac{1}{3}$ lata.

This species is easily distinguished from all those forms which

are so closely allied both to *Cl. ventricosa*, Drap., and *Cl. lineolata*, Heldr., and *Cl. plicatula*, Drap., by the circumstance that the striæ at the back of the throat (cervix) are rather more distant from each other than the striæ of the penultimate whorl. It is distinguished from *Cl. ventricosa* both by its smaller size and the interlamellar plaits (for the true *Cl. ventricosa* never has them); from *Cl. lineolata*, Heldr. (*basiliensis*, Fitzinger), and the other forms allied to *Cl. plicatula*, both by a distinctly marked keel bounded on each side by grooves, and by the absence of the palatal callosity. Nor does it ever possess the rudiment of a lower palatal fold so peculiar to *Cl. lineolata*. We shall enter more fully into this subject in the iconographic monograph which we have undertaken to write on the *Clausiliæ* allied to *ventricosa*, *plicatula*, *rugosa*, and *parvula*.

ADOLF SCHMIDT.

Aschersleben, Oct. 1855.

III.—*Memoir on the Indian species of Shrews.* By EDWARD BLYTH, Esq.* *With Notes by* ROBERT F. TOMES, Esq.

As an incentive to the investigation of some of the most imperfectly known of Indian Mammalia, and not the most inviting of groups to amateur students, we shall here endeavour to bring together, and to reduce or digest into intelligible form and order, the scattered materials available for a monograph on the Indian Shrews.

It may lead to the discovery of additional real species, and probably to the diminution of the number of present supposed species; besides conducing to the further elucidation of those at present known and recognized, and especially to a better knowledge of the extent of their geographical distribution.

In general the Shrews of tropical and subtropical countries are distinguished by their comparatively large size, and slaty hue of every shade from pale grey to black, with rufous tips to the fur more or less developed, though in some scarcely noticeable †; the ear-conch is conspicuously visible above the fur; the tail thick, tapering, and furnished with scattered long hairs, which certain species also exhibit on the body; and the teeth are wholly white ‡, and of the following type of structure.

The superior front teeth or *quasi-incisors* (vide J. A. S. xx. 164)

* From the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

† In at least some species, the rufous tips appear to increase with age; and, to a considerable extent, the colour of these animals is darker according to the increase of altitude inhabited by a species.

‡ While preparing this memoir, we discovered a remarkable exception in the instance of *Sorex melanodon*, n. s.